

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

July 30, 2004

**RE: UNITED STATES v. JORGE LOUIS GONZALEZ**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Jorge Louis Gonzalez, age 30, of 16 Amistad Lane, Buffalo, NY, pleaded guilty before the Honorable John T. Elfvin to sending an e-mail threat to bomb Buffalo City Hall, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e). This offense carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr., Chief of the Office's Anti-Terrorism Unit, stated that Mr. Gonzalez admitted sending the e-mail threat in October, 2003, in someone else's name, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation website in Washington, D.C. Mr. Hochul said that upon receiving the threat, the FBI tracked the origination point of the threat to a Buffalo area computer. Thereafter, FBI counter-terrorism investigators identified the defendant as the user of the computer at the time

the message was sent. Use of the internet to communicate a bomb threat constitutes a violation of federal criminal law, Mr. Hochul concluded.

United States Attorney Battle stated that this conviction demonstrates that the Government will vigorously investigate and prosecute those who send threatening communications via the internet, mail, or any other medium of commerce. Mr. Battle pointed out that terrorist threats have in the past year caused serious disruption of both public and private services and facilities. Mr. Battle also observed that while investigators were pursuing leads in this case, which proved in the end to be a hoax, the investigators' time was diverted from pursuing other, more serious terrorism matters, which itself poses a danger to the community.

The Complaint was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force, under the direction of Special Agents Robert Utz and Michael Hubert.